

Hobbs, NM – Today, Harry Teague announced that the First Choice Community Health Center in Los Lunas has been awarded funding to build a new primary care facility. The new health center will provide primary medical, dental and behavioral health services to Valencia County.

“For many of the small and rural communities throughout my district, seeing a doctor often requires hours of travel to a town miles away. Getting our local health centers the funding they need to add new providers or expand their hours and services will help our rural communities stay healthy,” said Harry Teague. “This funding will put New Mexicans back to work now and in the future providing a critical service to the community that will help boost the local economy and encourage future economic development.”

The \$8,153,989 grant, allocated through the Health Resources and Services Administration, will go towards the construction of the new facility. In addition to primary care, the facility will offer the community a new regional primary dental practice with 10 operatories, behavioral health services and extended hours. The funding for the project, applied for through a Capitol Development Grant, will create nearly 50 jobs in the construction phase, with additional full-time staff positions being created once the health center is opened.

“With this new facility, we are tripling our capacity to provide care in a region that has struggled with access to quality care. This grant will not only create jobs in the construction process, but also greatly grow our full-time staff upon completion, with the majority of those positions being filled locally,” said Bob DeFelice, CEO of First Choice Community Health Center. “I want to thank Congressman Teague for his guidance and support as we pursued this project and grant. With his assistance, we will be able to provide better care, create new jobs, and stimulate future growth in Valencia County.”

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